

(d) and (e) The Central Government has been advising the State Governments to fill up the vacancies of doctors and also ensure the adequate supply of drugs from time to time.

Statement

Vacancy position of Doctors/Pharmacists in Uttar Pradesh as on 30th June, 1996

	Sanctioned	In-position	Vacant
Doctors	3787	2263	*1524
Pharmacists	927	927	Nil

Free Medical Treatment

318. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have instructed the hospitals to follow certain rules at the time of issuing financial aid to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also laid down a condition of providing free treatment to 40 percent poor people;

(d) if so, the name of the agency entrusted with conducting an enquiry into the non-compliance of the terms and conditions set in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) A condition of providing free treatment to poor and needy was being imposed by Foreign Investment Promotion Board while issuing the letter of approval in cases of proposal of setting up hospitals by NRI.

(c) to (e) The Directorate General of Health Services had been issuing custom duty exemption certificates for import of hospital equipments in terms of Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)'s Notification No. 64/88-Cus., dated 1.3.88, provided the applicant institutions fulfill the conditions stipulated therein. While considering the case for issue of CDEC, it is assured from the State Government concerned that the hospital provides free treatment, on an average, to atleast 40% of all their out door patients as one of the conditions of the notification.

The notification No. 64/88-Cus., dated 1.3.88 has since been rescinded from 1.3.94. And also the entire matter of issuance of custom duty exemption certificate from 1988 onwards for private hospitals under Department of Revenue notification No. 64/88-Cus., dated 1.3.88 has been questioned in a Writ Petition No. 409/96 filed before Hon'ble

High Court of Delhi. After hearing the matter the Hon'ble Court in their interim order directed that two committees are to be formed to enquire into irregularities, malpractices etc. in import of hospital equipments. Accordingly the Ministry of Finance has constituted two committees vide their order No. 241 of 1996 vide their letter No. A. 11013/7/96-Ad.I, dated 1.11.96. Thus the entire matter is being examined by these two committees as per the terms of reference.

Cornea Implantation

319. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of blind persons in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether blindness caused due to accident or illness can be cured by cornea implantation;

(c) whether people show unwillingness to donate cornea in our country; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to launch a campaign for encouraging people towards donating cornea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) On the basis of a survey conducted in 1989, it is estimated that there are more than 12 million blind persons in the country and the State-wise details of estimated No. of blind persons is given in the attached Statement.

(b) Corneal transplantation can be useful in some cases of blindness due to accident or illness.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A fortnight is celebrated every year between 28th August to 8th September to promote eye donation.

Statement

Statewise Prevalence of Blindness and Estimated blind persons

S. No.	State/UTs	Population (1991)	Prevalence* /10000 POP.	Estimated ** Blind Persons
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66508008	150	10,88,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	864558	123	13,500
3.	Assam	22414322	134	3,00,000
4.	Bihar	86374465	128	10,66,000
5.	Delhi	9420644	63	52,000

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	1169793	203	25,000
7.	Gujarat	41309582	144	5,83,000
8.	Haryana	16463648	113	1,83,000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5170877	87	45,000
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	7718700	280	2,11,000
11.	Karnataka	44977201	129	5,59,000
12.	Kerala	29098518	131	3,67,000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	66181170	201	13,22,000
14.	Maharashtra	78937187	164	12,52,000
15.	Manipur	1837149	65	11,000
16.	Meghalaya	1774778	22	3,000
17.	Mizoram	689756	NA	—
18.	Nagaland	1209546	38	4,000
19.	Orissa	31659736	172	5,38,000
20.	Punjab	20281969	73	1,40,000
21.	Rajasthan	43997990	224	9,38,000
22.	Sikkim	406457	45	3,000
23.	Tamil Nadu	55858946	165	9,22,000
24.	Tripura	2757205	118	34,000
25.	Uttar Pradesh	139112287	158	20,98,000
26.	West Bengal	68077965	96	6,54,000
27.	A&N Islands	280661	67	1,900
28.	Chandigarh	642015	189	11,400
29.	D&N Haveli	138477	NA	—
30.	Daman & Diu	101586	NA	—
31.	Lakshadweep	51707	89	400
32.	Pondicherry	807785	NA	—
Total		846302688	149	12435200

* Source : WHO/GOI National Survey (1986-89)

** Survey results projected for 1991 census population

Improvement of National Highways in Gujarat

320. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Roads and Buildings Department of Gujarat have sent proposals to the Union Government regarding Development and Improvement of National Highways in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received till date;

(c) the number of proposals accepted or rejected year-wise so far and the number of proposals under consideration/pending;

(d) the factual details in this regard; and

(e) the time by which these proposals would be accepted and the latest position thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Out of about 185 proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat during the last three years, 90 road/bridge projects costing Rs. 9962.08 lakhs have been sanctioned towards the development of works. The other works could not be sanctioned mainly due to financial stringency under the Central Sector Roads programme.

[English]

Inland Water Transport

321. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have framed any long term plan to develop inland water transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the tenure of the long term plan to develop inland water transport;

(c) whether a separate task force is proposed to be set up for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Working Group set up to suggest policies and programmes for IWT sector during 9th Five Year Plan submitted its report. The recommendations of the Working Group present detailed programmes for IWT development in next five years as well as policy to be adopted in 9th Plan and beyond to make IWT a viable transport system wherever its potential exists. The report of the Working Group is under process.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

National Security Council

322. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal for setting up of high level National Security Council with the aim of co-ordinating the views of the specialists from all the concerned fields;